

Message Text

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44-41

ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 RSR-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /060 W
----- 085887

R 012258 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9361

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DEPT PASS FAA WASHDC

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, NI

SUBJECT: FAA ASSISTANCE TO NIGERIAN CIVIL AVIATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: TRANSPORT MINISTRY HAS SWITCHED SIGNALS AGAIN ON ITS APPROACH TO FAA ASSISTANCE FOR ITS CIVIL AVIATION PROGRAM. IT NOW WISHES A PRELIMINARY STUDY INSTEAD OF A PACKAGE APPROACH. IN VIEW OF TWA'S CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH TOP MOT OFFICIALS, EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD MOVE AT DELIBERATE PACE IN RESPONDING TO THIS LATEST REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM TRANSPORT PERMSEC LONGET STATING THAT INSTEAD OF THREE- PHASE PACKAGE APPROACH OUTLINED STATE 57000 MOT NOW PREFERS TO START FAA PROJECT WITH " THE USUAL PRELIMINARY STUDY... WHICH WOULD DETERMINE THE SCOPE AND COST ESTIMATES... AS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED BY FAA." LETTER ADDS THAT MOT WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF FAA WOULD UNDERTAKE SUCH A STUDY UNDER LEADERSHIP OF SPECIALIST SUITABLE FOR THE CONSIDERATION FOR THE VACANT POST OF DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION. LETTER ALSO NOTES THAT JOHN BAKER MAY NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE TO FILL THIS POSITION.

3. SHORTLY AFTER LETTER RECEIVED, FRANCIS OBI CALLED,
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OSTENSIBLY ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, BUT QUICKLY ASKED ABOUT EMBASSY'S REACTION TO THIS LETTER. HE HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR MOT'S SHIFT AWAY FROM PACKAGE APPROACH OTHER THAN TO NOTE THAT WHEN MINISTRY SAW SIZE, COST AND DURATION OF PROJECT SPELLED OUT IN BLANK AND TO THE RVN JMC TEAM LEADER AT CU CHI,

LT. COL. CHINH. JMC BIEN HOA REQUESTS ACTION BY ICCS BIEN HOA, WHICH, IN TURN, REQUESTS ACTION BY THE CU CHI ICCS TEAM. TO DATE, ONLY THREE FORMAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN HAU NGHIA, ALTHOUGH ICCS REPRESENTATIVES TOLD US ON APRIL 24 THAT THEY ARE NOW PREPARING TO INITIATE 10 NEW INVESTIGATIONS OF INCIDENTS BOTH IN HAU NGHIA AND TAY NINH.

3. THOUGH THE CU CHI TEAM IS SETTLING DOWN TO WORK, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CANADIANS AND THE COMMUNISTS AT CU CHI ARE SOUR. THIS IS PRIMARILY DUE TO COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS TO DELAY INVESTIGATIONS, BUT IT IS ALSO DUE TO THE IMPATIENCE OF CANDEL CHIEF MAJOR MCLENNON AND THE DULL, MONASTIC LIFE IN THE CU CHI CAMP. THE CANADIANS COMPLAIN THAT THE COMMUNISTS, PARTICULARLY THE HUNGARIANS, PUT OFF WORK WITH THE EXCUSE THAT THEY ARE "RECEIVING GUESTS FROM BIEN HLE" OR THAT THEY HAVE TO "RECEIVE CLEARANCE FROM BIEN HOA". THE POLES SOMETIMES ACT INDEPENDENTLY OF THE HUNGARIANS; ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION THEY CONSIDERED BUT DECIDED AGAINST GOING ON AN INVESTIGATION WITHOUT THE HUNGARIANS. THE POLISH LIEUTENANT COMMANDER HAS EXPRESSED "PERSONAL OPINIONS" ABOUT INCIDENTS WHICH ARE MORE FAVORABLE TO THE RVN THAN HIS "OFFICIAL OPINIONS." THE POLISH COMMANDER IS REPORTEDLY FRUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT THE PRG JMC REPRESENTATIVES ARE NOT IN PLACE IN CU CHI; HE HAS REPORTEDLY INTIMATED THAT THE COMMUNIST ICCS REPRESENTATIVES CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER IN DELAYING INVESTIGATIONS WHICH WILL, IN MOST CASES, TURN OUT FAVORABLY FOR THE RVN. APPARENTLY HE TAKES SERIOUSLY THE CANADIAN THREAT, MADE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, TO GO AHEAD WITH UNILATERAL INVESTIGATIONS.

4. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT BE PASSING MILITARY INFORMATION TO THE NVA/VC; ON THE CONTRARY, ON ONE OCCASION A CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE REPORTEDLY "TALKED TOO MUCH", AN ARVN INDIVIDUAL PICKED UP SOME VALUABLE INTELLIGENCE, AND A NUMBER OF COMMUNIST SOLDIERS IN THE AREA IN QUESTION WERE ANNIHILATED. WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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